United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council requests Secretary-General to establish an impartial Commission of Experts to examine grave violations of international humanitarian law, including possible acts of genocide in Rwanda.

+ Security Council extends UNMIH mandate until 31 July; requests Secretary-General to make specific recommendations by 15 July, on aspects of Mission's expansion.

+ Security Council approves interim extension of UNOMIG mandate, at its current authorized strength of 55 military observers, until 21 July; reaffirms readiness to expand mission.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, calls on parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to stop offensive military operations and resume negotiations on a comprehensive cessation of hostilities by 10 July; demands lifting of restrictions on UNPROFOR movements.

+ Secretary-General appeals for end tragedy in Aden as city runs out of water; calls on Yemeni leaders to stop fighting immediately; expresses disappointment that cease-fire signed in Moscow not holding.

+ Secretary-General condemns killing of three United Nations staff members in attack on Operation Lifeline Sudan convoy; calls on concerned parties to ensure safety of humanitarian relief personnel.

+ High Commissioner Sadako Ogata warns a shortage of funds could bring UNHCR humanitarian operations in former Yugoslavia to a halt by end of July.

+ Secretary-General in message to 44th annual Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Greece, says in science and technology, humanity possesses means of its own security and progress.

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For information media--not an official record

+ The Security Council today requested the Secretary-General to establish as a matter of urgency, an impartial Commission of Experts to examine and analyse information on grave violations of international humanitarian law, including possible acts of genocide in Rwanda. The Secretary-General was further requested to report to the Council on the conclusions of the Commission, within four months of its establishment.

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In unanimously adopting resolution 935 (1994), the Council called on States and international humanitarian organizations to collate substantiated information on grave violations of humanitarian law, including breaches of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. They should make that information available within 30 days and provide the appropriate assistance to the Commission of Experts.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General and, when appropriate, the High Commissioner of Human Rights to make the information submitted to the Special Rapporteur for Rwanda available to the Commission of Experts. The Secretary-General was further requested to facilitate adequate coordination and cooperation between the Commission and the Special Rapporteur.

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The Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) until 31 July. In unanimously adopting resolution 933 (1994) last night, the Council asked the Secretary-General to make recommendations by 15 July, on the mission's expansion, specifically its strength, composition, cost and duration. Recommendations should also include ways UNMIH could assist the Haitian democratic authorities to provide security for the international presence, senior government officials and key installations. The Mission could also help assure public order and assist with legislative elections.

The Council authorized the Secretary-General to make the arrangements necessary for it to authorize the Mission's rapid deployment, when the proper environment had been created, and after it had received his report. The Council also invited Member States to prepare to provide the troops, police, civilian personnel, equipment and logistical support for the appropriate configuration of UNMIH. It decided to keep the situation under constant review and said it would consider promptly any recommendations by the Secretary-General on the deployment of UNMIH.

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The Security Council last night approved an interim extension of the United Nations Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) mandate, at its current authorized strength of 55 military observers, until 21 July. During that period, it would address the Secretary-General's recommendations for UNOMIG's expansion. In unanimously adopting resolution 934 (1994), the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on discussions regarding the coordination between

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an expanded UNOMIG, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peace-keeping force.

In his report, the Secretary-General said UNOMIG would need 150 military observers to carry out an expanded mandate. It would monitor the Cease-fire Agreement and Separation of Forces signed by the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in May. It would also investigate and try and resolve violations of the agreement, as well as maintain close contacts with both sides of the conflict and the CIS force. The Council urged the parties to achieve substantial progress towards a political settlement, consistent with its previous resolutions, in their upcoming talks. It also noted with satisfaction the beginning of CIS assistance in the zone of conflict, with the initial deployment of an advance Russian contingent of the CIS force.

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The Security Council has called once again on the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to stop offensive military operations and other provocative actions. In statement read out last night by its President, Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby (Oman), the Council called on them to resume and complete negotiations on a comprehensive cessation of hostilities by 10 July. It also demanded restrictions on the movements of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be lifted, so it could assist in the implementation of the 8 June cease-fire agreement, between the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb authorities.

The Council expressed its grave concern at the parties' failure to comply with the cease-fire, which expires on 10 July, and called for an end to those violations and to ethnic cleansing. Deploring all attacks on United Nations personnel, it called on those responsible to ensure that such attacks did not take place. It also called for a continuation of negotiations to achieve a just and comprehensive peace agreement

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed to the leadership in Sana'a to end to the tragedy in Aden and called on the Yemeni leaders to stop fighting immediately. There is no more water in Aden and people are fighting in front of the few wells which have a little water, mostly unfit for human consumption, according to a United Nations spokesman. Engineers brought in by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been unable to get near the water station of Bir Nasser to repair the damage caused by the continued shelling.

The Secretary-General said it was both disappointing and frustrating that the cease-fire signed in Moscow by two prominent Yemeni leaders, yesterday, was not holding any more than the previous ones. The people of Aden could not be left to die of thirst, he said. Hospitals could not function without water, especially when they were filled well over capacity with the wounded and the sick.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the killing of three United Nations staff members in an attack on the Operation Lifeline Sudan, in northern Uganda, last week. He has extended his deepest condolences to their families. The three men, drivers employed locally by the World Food Programme (WFP), were shot when their convoy was attacked as it returned to Gulu from Pakele. Four colleagues managed to escape. The act is believed to be the work of a group called the Lord's Resistance Army.

Operation Lifeline Sudan personnel and relief workers have been harassed or attacked in the area recently and relief supplies and equipment looted and destroyed. The Secretary-General said he was deeply concerned at the violation of humanitarian principles, which had interrupted the flow of essential supplies to civilians. He called on all concerned to ensure the security of relief workers and unimpeded access to affected populations.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) warned today that a shortage of funds could bring humanitarian operations in the former Yugoslavia to a halt by the end of July. The UNHCR is providing aid to some 4 million people in the former Yugoslavia, 66% of them in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In letter to major donors, High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, said the UNHCR urgently needed $50 million to get it through the Summer months. The United Nations Inter-Agency Appeal in May had failed to generate substantial contributions and with the Summer recess in donor capitals, the UNHCR might not receive sufficient funds until September, she said.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, the longest such operation in aviation history, will celebrate its second anniversary this weekend. Over the last two years, an average of 14 flights a day have delivered food, medicine and other aid to the Bosnian capital.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said in science and technology, humanity possessed the means of its own security and progress. In a message to the opening of the forty-fourth annual Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Kolymbari, Greece, the Secretary-General said the scientific community, and those who helped shape public debate through research and analysis, faced an enormous responsibility. The meeting was an opportunity to bring science's insights and conceptual tools to today's great issues.

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The Secretary-General said technology and science offered tools to help predict and solve problems, but humanity must have the will to use them. In every part of the world, crops grew, natural disasters were mitigated and disease cured or contained, yet in many places, hunger, devastation and sickness went unattended. However, the quest for democracy throughout the world was a reason for hope and the United Nations had the framework to meet the high expectations of the world community for peace and security, economic and social well-being.

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